



**INDIANA  
DEPARTMENT  
OF  
HOMELAND  
SECURITY:**

*Safeguarding  
Hoosiers by  
Planning,  
Preparing and  
Responding*

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# THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

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## Operation Hoosier Relief:

### Helping Mississippi Recover from Katrina

Early in the morning on Saturday, September 3, over 200 people from Indiana departed Stout Field in Indianapolis to help Mississippi communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina begin the recovery process. This group, part of Operation Hoosier Relief, deployed to the area coordinated through an Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) between Indiana and Mississippi.

Operation Hoosier Relief combined the resources, including personnel, of seven state agencies and the Indiana National Guard to assist Mississippi in recovering from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The first of three deployments of Indiana personnel departed for Mississippi just five days after the hurricane struck. Each de-

ployment included 180 to 220 personnel.

Shortly after arriving, the Indiana contingency established "Camp Indiana" at the Biloxi Coliseum. The group assisted the cities of Gulfport and Biloxi, in addition to many smaller communities and counties in the area, in recovery efforts. Operation



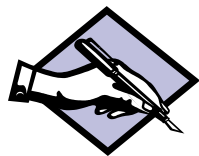
*Above: Indiana State Police Major Tom Melville and IDHS' Dave Perkins discuss operation deployment.*

Hoosier Relief started wrapping up in mid-October and the last personnel arrived home on October 15.

In addition to IDHS, the Indiana State Department of Health, Family and Social Services Administration Division of Mental Health and Addiction Service, Indiana Department of Transportation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Indiana Department of Corrections and Indiana State Police participated in Operation Hoosier Relief.

Services provided included physical and mental health assistance, roadside services to disaster victims and relief workers, boat patrols, debris removal, transport of operation members, and law enforcement support. IDHS

*(continued on pg. 2)*



## From the Desk of Director Dietz

I was happy to return to Indiana at the conclusion of my military career in 2004. Before entering the U.S. Army, Indiana was my home. My experiences growing up in Michigan City, spending summers working on my grandparents farm in Bartholomew County, and attending college in Indiana, as well as in the Army, shaped values I hold with me today.

In the military, I served as a chemical officer and trained soldiers to respond and prepare for nuclear, biological and chemical warfare. I worked as a chemical engineer with the chemical demilitarization program and also researched and developed new protective chemical equipment.

During my last years in the

Army, I developed command and control technology intended to improve decision making on the battlefield. Upon retirement from the military, Purdue University hired me to teach and develop technology for applications in homeland security.

I started my newest job in April, just as Governor Daniels signed Senate  
*(continued on pg. 4)*

# Operation Hoosier Relief

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provided overall control and coordination and the Indiana National Guard provided on-site logistics for Operation Hoosier Relief.

"We learned a great deal from this experience about disaster response," said J. Eric Dietz, IDHS Executive Director. "I had the opportunity to view firsthand the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina and am proud Indiana quickly assembled a team to assist Mississippi in its recovery efforts."

## Operation Hoosier Relief Overview

**Total Personnel Deployed from Indiana:** 520  
**Patients Treated by Medical Team:** 9,321  
**Inoculations Dispensed by Medical Team:** 6,973  
**Patients Treated by Mental Health Team:** 11,847  
**Law Enforcement Incidents Reported:** 1,200 (300 arrests)  
**Miles Logged by Hoosier Helpers:** 4,000 (900 vehicles serviced)  
**Trees and Debris Removed:** Countless!!!



Right (from top): Operation Hoosier Relief included free health clinics and debris clearing, including the Jefferson Davis Museum and adjacent cemetery.

Above: The first group deployed as part of Operation Hoosier Relief departed September 3 from Stout Field in Indianapolis.

"The experiences and lessons learned Joe brings to IDHS, both in training and law enforcement, will prove to be invaluable to his division and the entire department."  
 -Director Dietz

## Wainscott Named IDHS Division of Training Director

Joe Wainscott is the new Director of IDHS' Division of Training. Wainscott joins IDHS after serving as the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the United States Attorney Office, Southern District of Indiana.

As Director of IDHS Division of Training, Wainscott will oversee development of training and certification for Indiana's first responders, including emergency services personnel.

"The experiences and lessons learned Joe brings to IDHS, both in training and law enforcement, will prove to be invaluable to his division and the entire department," said J. Eric Dietz, Executive Director of IDHS. "I know his skills and talents will help make

homeland security training in Indiana top notch and an example to other states."

As the Law Enforcement Coordinator for the United States Attorney's Office, Wainscott served as a liaison between the office and federal, state, county, and local law enforcement agencies in the southern two-thirds of Indiana. He also had responsibilities in public safety training, terrorism, asset forfeiture, and federally funded crime suppression initiatives such as Weed and Seed and Project Safe Neighborhoods.

Wainscott, a twenty-three year veteran of the Indiana State Police (ISP), is a certified Indiana Law Enforcement

Academy instructor and possesses a national certification in school safety leadership from the National School Safety Center.

Wainscott joins the IDHS leadership team which includes Division of Emergency Response Director Phil Roberts, Division of Planning Director Cliff Wojtalewicz, Division of Fire and Building Safety Director and State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson, and, Division of Fire and Building Safety Deputy Director and Deputy State Fire Marshal, Mike Garvey.



Joe Wainscott  
 IDHS Division of Training Director

# State Firefighter Training System Update

IDHS continues to move forward in developing the State Firefighter Training System (SFTS). The goal of the training system is to provide local firefighters with increased opportunities for certified training delivered at a local level. Additionally, the system will aid volunteer fire departments in recruitment efforts by providing regular and consistent basic training courses.

IDHS intends to deliver firefighter training in each of the ten established Homeland Security Districts (HSD). Fire departments in each HSD will select leaders to serve on a district training council. These councils will develop a training plan for their respective district and submit the plan to a State Training Council for approval and funding to deliver mandatory certification and Firefighter I/II courses.

Although local access to train-

ing is essential to the SFTS, IDHS also is exploring the development of a central state training facility as part of the SFTS. Significant funding sources are required for such a facility. In addition to construction costs or funds for acquisition of existing facilities, securing funds for operating and maintenance expenses for a central state facility is essential.

IDHS is also considering the development a web-based training program as part of the SFTS. Web-based training enables users to access training at any time and on their schedule.

Additionally, IDHS is exploring partnerships with Indiana's institutions of higher education to offer college credit for firefighter training courses to apply toward a college degree.

All opportunities and potential solutions to provide high quality, accessible training to fire-

fighters and potential firefighters throughout Indiana remain under consideration and suggestions are welcome. However, regardless of the solutions, determining a funding source for any solution is a key issue.

Funding sources for the SFTS under consideration include a fireworks tax, homeland security grants, insurance funds and FIRE Act grants. Some of these sources require legislative action and IDHS will seek legislative support.

Contact John M. Buckman III, Special Projects Manager, IDHS Division of Fire and Building Safety at 317-233-5291 or [jbuckman@dhs.in.gov](mailto:jbuckman@dhs.in.gov) with any suggestions or questions regarding the SFTS.

*Below: 33 complete mandatory certification for Firefighter Training I offered by IDHS this past summer, including Executive Director Dietz.*



## IDHS Coordinates Hurricane Relief Assistance

Soon after Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, Hoosiers wanted to help residents of the affected areas through donations or volunteering their time. IDHS quickly informed citizens the best way to aid the areas hit was through monetary contributions and in coordination with disaster relief organizations.

Monetary contributions, in the form of cash and gift cards, assist in several ways:

- Cash is easily transportable and can be distributed to individuals to target their most essential needs. There is no need for expensive warehousing space and the skills to run such an operation.

- Buying goods and services in and around the affected areas infuses cash into an economy when it is most needed.
- Cash allows the families to make their own choices in their needs, allowing for independence, which is a key to improved mental health as well.

In addition, IDHS procured [www.indianadisasterhelp.org](http://www.indianadisasterhelp.org), powered by DAVVIS (Donations and Volunteers Virtual Inventory System), as an alternative to physically warehousing supplies. The system collects pledges of donations, materials, supplies and skills for disaster recovery via an internet web-

site. When needs are identified, DAVVIS locates pledged resources which then can be immediately deployed.

Additionally, DAVVIS also serves as a registration site for Katrina and Rita evacuees in Indiana. Utilizing the system, Agencies involved in disaster relief can track information concerning long term recovery for evacuees.

IDHS also coordinated with Indiana Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (INVOAD) and Indiana 2-1-1 following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. These organizations help connect resources and bring together nonprofits to work as a team during a time of crisis.



Contact David Barrabee, Volunteer Agency Liaison, IDHS Division of Planning at 317-233-6116 or [dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov](mailto:dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov) for more information on DAVVIS or Indiana's disaster relief volunteer efforts.



# From the Desk of Director Dietz

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Enrolled Act 56 that created the Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS). The previous organizations served Indiana well but did not offer the flexibility to react swiftly to new threats to Hoosiers created by terrorism. The new department offers a more functional approach to homeland security, differing from the previous design that centered on safety disciplines.

Everything witnessed in recent natural and human caused disasters indicates the importance of teamwork among responders, decision makers and the public to ensure a swift response and recovery. IDHS will work to build a team to develop plans based on requirements from intelligence and mandates from the federal level. I believe this department is the right path to approach homeland security needs and a teamwork approach is a good first step.

The divisions of IDHS are Planning, Training, Emergency Response, and Fire and Building Safety. The department will validate plans through training and exercises to confirm their thoroughness. Once validated, plans along with their training and exercise components will become a part of a statewide lessons learned program. This program will communicate what was successful and what requires improvement.

We know all too well Indiana is prone to disasters. Since 1990, the state has

received over 20 federal disaster declarations. In a disaster, IDHS must respond as a team, effectively and rapidly, to serve public's best interest. I believe our department has already proven effective in this area.

Upon the landfall of Hurricane Katrina, IDHS and numerous other departments reacted quickly and decisively. Together, we developed a plan and deployed a team of 216 Hoosiers to Mississippi within five days.

Our team, called Operation Hoosier Relief, departed for Mississippi well prepared to respond to great human need and suffering. The operation included law enforcement, fire services, emergency medical services, mental health services, conservation officers, military logistics and emergency management.

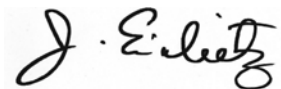
Operation Hoosier Relief provided great stability in the Biloxi, Mississippi area and helped speed the initial recovery process. During the operation's six weeks, the team treated thousands of medical patients, provided thousands of prescriptions and inoculations, patrolled many hundreds of miles of streets and waterways, cleared hundreds of trees, responded to hundreds of stranded motorists, and much more. Our response effort in Mississippi is an indicator of Indiana's ability to rapidly plan for and respond to a disaster at home. Additionally, members of the

operation trained on the homeland security skills needed for Indiana across all disciplines.

Within IDHS, we possess a homeland security team of advisors, deputy directors or division chiefs with over 100 years of combined experience: Roger Johnson, firefighter of over 40 years; Mike Garvey, over 25 years in emergency medical services and public health; Cliff Wojtalewicz, over 20 years in military communications; Phil Roberts, over 30 years in emergency management; and Joe Wainscott, over 25 years in law enforcement and training.

I firmly believe this is a comprehensive, well-balanced management team. Homeland security demands and requires this kind of professional diversity when developing plans and making decisions.

IDHS will continue to support local government, as in the past, and expand our teamwork philosophy to all levels of government. We must ensure all city, county and state officials share in the needs and response methodology for our citizens. We must also maintain interaction between all levels of government to ensure effectiveness and foster teamwork.



## IDHS News Round Up!!!

September 1, 2005

Indiana Observes National Preparedness Month

September 1, 2005

Operation Hoosier Relief

*Below: IDHS highlighted CERT during National Preparedness Month.*



September 2, 2005

IDHS Urges Responders Not to Self-Deploy

September 9, 2005

Indiana Ready to Assist Katrina Evacuees

September 14, 2005

IDHS Director Supports "IN Shape Indiana"

September 15, 2005

26th Annual Emergency Response Conference Kicks Off

September 17, 2005

Emergency Response Professionals Honored

September 20, 2005

IDHS Assures Indiana Communities FEMA Will Process Mitigation Applications

October 1, 2005

IDHS Showcases Search and Rescue Academy

October 10, 2005

IDHS Observes National Fire Prevention Week

October 11, 2005

Wainscott Named IDHS Training Division Director

October 12, 2005

Hoosiers Return Home from Mississippi



*Above: A search and rescue team participating in the Open House at IDHS' Mari Hulman George Search and Rescue Academy.*



## Mark Your Calendar!

**Emergency Management Agency  
Workshops:**  
(By Homeland Security Districts (HSD))

*[Click here for workshop agenda!](#)*

**HSD #1 & #2: October 26**  
City Hall Council Chambers  
100 E. Michigan Blvd.  
Michigan City

**HSD #3: October 27**  
Indiana State Police Post District #22  
5811 Ellison Rd.  
Fort Wayne

**HSD #4: November 1**  
Indiana State Police Post District #14  
5921 State Road 43 North  
West Lafayette

**HSD #5: November 2**  
INDOT Traffic Management  
Center  
21st Street & Post Road  
Indianapolis

**HSD #6: November 3**  
Wayne County EOC  
401 E. Main St.  
Richmond

**HSD #7: November 8**  
U.S. Army Reserve Center  
410 E. Davis Dr.  
Terre Haute

**HSD #8 & #9: November 9**  
Muscatatuck Urban Training Center  
Chapel  
North Vernon

**HSD #10: November 10**  
Casino Aztar  
421 N.W. Riverside Dr.  
Evansville

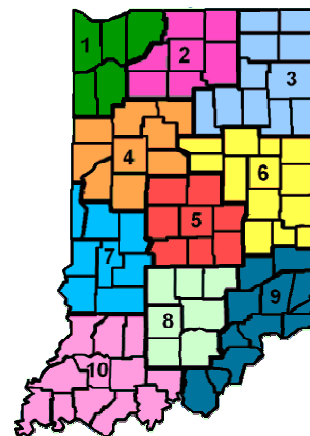
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**Indiana Emergency  
Response Commission  
Conference**  
October 21  
Emergency Management Alliance of  
Indiana  
Conference  
October 22-23

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**IDHS offices closed in observation of  
state holidays on:**  
November 11 (Veteran's Day)  
November 24-25 (Thanksgiving)

## Indiana Homeland Security Districts



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security  
Safeguarding Hoosiers by  
Planning, Preparing and Responding*

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*The Hoosier Responder* is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.